

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HELSIN 00638 021646Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-12 NRC-05 IO-13 EB-08 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-11
CEQ-01 /120 W

-----089943 021649Z /43

P R 021425Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2442
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0638

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PARM, SW, UR, FI
SUBJECT: FINNISH REACTION TO SOVIET NUCLEAR MISSILE SUBMARINES IN
BALTIC

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FINNISH MEDIA HAVE REACTED TO THE
FEBRUARY 28 SVENSKA DAGBLADET REPORT OF FOREIGN MINISTER SODER'S
DISCLOSURE OF SOVIET NUCLEAR-MISSILE
SUBMARINES
IN THE BALTIC.

PLAYING THE STORY STRAIGHT, THE MEDIA RELIED
LARGELY ON SWEDISH AND WIRE SERVICE REPORTS AND A SUBSEQUENT
STATEMENT BY THE FINNISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MOST)
PAPERS, INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST DAILIES KANSAN UUTISET AND
TIEDONANTAJA, RAN FRONT-PAGE STORIES. THE LATTER ASKED WHY
SWEDEN CONSIDERED THIS DEVELOPMENT NEWS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME
IGNORING NATO MANEUVERS IN THE BALTIC AND NORTH SEA AREAS.
CONSERVATIVE AAMULEHTI ADDED A PICTURE OF THE WEST GERMAN
CINC MEETING HIS SWEDISH COUNTERPART IN STOCKHOLM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HELSIN 00638 021646Z

2. MOST PAPERS FEATURED THE FINNISH MFA STATEMENT WHICH TOOK
NOTE OF THE SWEDISH REPORT BUT SAID THAT "SINCE THERE
ARE ALREADY NUCLEAR ARMS IN THE TERRITORIES OF
STATES WHICH BORDER ON THE BALTIC, THE USE OF SUCH
SUBMARINES IN THE BALTIC DOES NOT IMPLY ANY
ESSENTIAL CHANGE IN THE STRATEGIC SITUATION IN NORTHERN

EUROPE." THE BRIEF STATEMENT ALSO POINTED OUT THAT FINLAND'S PROPOSAL FOR A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IN NORTHERN EUROPE IS STILL TIMELY. IT SAID THAT THE PROPOSED ZONE WOULD COVER AT LEAST THE NORDIC COUNTRIES' TERRITORIAL WATERS, WHERE FREE MOVEMENT OF SUBMARINES IS PROHIBITED IN ANY EVENT, BUT NOTED THAT "THE DANISH STRAITS AND TRANSIT THROUGH THEM HAVE LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED AS QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE TO BE SOLVED WHEN THE NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IS ESTABLISHED."

3. ADMIRAL KLENBER, FINNISH NAVY COMMANDER, WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING THAT FINNISH NAVAL UNITS HAVE OCCASIONALLY OBSERVED SOVIET SUBMARINES IN THE BALTIC; HE SAID THEY "ARE PROBABLY NOT PERMANENTLY DEPLOYED HERE BUT ARE ON TRIAL OR TRANSIT CRUISES,") AND STATED THAT NO NUCLEAR MISSILE SUBMARINES HAVE BEEN SIGHTED.

4. THE ONLY EDITORIAL REACTION SO FAR APPEARED MARCH 2 IN KANSAN UUTISET AND AAMULEHTI. THE FORMER SAID THE ONLY THING NEW IN THE SWEDISH REPORT IS THAT "IN SWEDEN ONE IS AGAIN WAKING UP TO THE HARD REALITIES OF OUR TIME." OBSERVING THAT THE APPEARANCE OF THE SWEDISH STATEMENT COMES AT THE SAME TIME AS NEWS OF NATO EXERCISES IN THE BALTIC, THE COMMUNIST PAPER CALLED IT ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVE RESULTS IN THE DISARMAMENT AREA

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HELSIN 00638 021646Z

AND TO REALIZE A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE. AAMULEHTI, ON THE OTHER HAND, EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE MFA STATEMENT TOOK ADEQUATE ACCOUNT OF THE POLITICAL AS OPPOSED TO THE MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF THE SWEDISH DISCLOSURE FOR

THE REALIZATION OF A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE. IT SAID THE PRESENCE OF THE SUBMARINES COULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE SECURITY POLICIES OF DENMARK, NORWAY AND SWEDEN. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. WE BELIEVE THAT THE FINNISH NAVY COMMANDER WAS BEING LESS THAN CANDID IN HIS PUBLIC REMARKS. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR, CALLING ON A FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL DEPARTMENT DIVISION CHIEF ON OTHER MATTERS, GOT INTO AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH HIM CONCERNING THE SWEDISH DISCLOSURE. THE MFA OFFICIAL BASICALLY REAFFIRMED THE MFA PRESS STATEMENT. HOWEVER, HE ELABORATED SOMEWHAT BY CONCEDED THAT IT IS A "SOMEWHAT NEW" SITUATION THAT SOVIET SUBMARINES WOULD BE PERMANENTLY BASED IN A BALTIC PORT (NOT CONTRAST WITH NAVY COMMANDER'S STATEMENT) AND

REGULARLY PATROL THE BALTIC. HE WONDERED IF THE SOVIETS
MIGHT USE THE PRESENCE OF THE SUBMARINES IN THE BALTIC
AS A "TRADING CHIP" TO BE USED IN SEEKING SOME
NORDIC CONCESSION. THE EMBASSY OFFICER EXPRESSED HIS
PERSONAL DOUBT THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD
CONSIDER AS A TRADING CHIP THEIR RIGHT TO STATION
SUBMARINES IN WHATEVER SOVIET PORT THEY PLEASE.
NOTING THAT THE MFA STATEMENT CONSIDERS FINLAND'S NORDIC
NUCLEAR FREE ZONE PROPOSAL STILL TIMELY, THE
EMBASSY OFFICER SUGGESTED THAT WITH
SOVIET NUCLEAR-ARMED SUBMARINES OPERATING IN
THE BALTIC, THE OTHER NORDIC
COUNTRIES MAY BE EVEN LESS RECEPTIVE THAN BEFORE TO FOR-
MALIZING THEIR RESERVATIONS WITH RESPECT TO NUCLEAR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HELSIN 00638 021646Z

WEAPONS ON THEIR TERRITORIES. THE MFA OFFICIAL WAS

NONCOMMITTAL. END CONFIDENTIAL.

RIDGWAY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, NAVAL EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HELSIN00638
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780095-1242
Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803116/aaaadudo.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cae33dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3144300
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FINNISH REACTION TO SOVIET NUCLEAR MISSILE SUBMARINES IN BALTIC
TAGS: MILI, PARM, SW, UR, FI, XN, XT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cae33dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014